Natural Rearing Newsletter ©

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FOR BREEDERS THAT CHOOSE TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES

From The Desk Of: MARINA ZACHARIAS

Happy new year gang. As we move closer and closer to the 21st Century I am happy to report that the 'wave' of interest in 'natural' medicine, is growing at a very fast pace.

I finally went "on line" with Internet and was thrilled to find access to so much information. Now all I have to do is learn to 'serf' the net effectively. For those of you that want to drop me a line or two, my e-mail address is:

ambrican@cdsnet.net

In the near future I plan to set up my own home page with articles, product info, etc. We are looking into the possibility of setting up a 'chat' facility to share experiences and answer questions. Maybe we can also get our new 'Natural Rearing' Breeder Network 'on line' ?

Meantime lets get on with the good stuff.

ENZYMES—PART 2

From the last issue, you know that enzymes are protein molecules necessary for life. There are three main groups of enzymes: metabolic enzymes, digestive enzymes and food enzymes. Although most of this series of articles will concentrate on 'metabolic' enzymes and therapeutic research, I do want to touch on the other two groups here.

Food enzymes are naturally present in all raw foods, and provide an outside source of digestive enzymes when consumed. Modern food processing techniques and all types of cooking destroy almost 100% of these enzymes. Cooking at any temperature over 118° F, virtually destroys this type of enzyme. This in turn means that a heavier burden is placed on the digestive enzymes in the body.

We can say that in spite of the different foods we eat, they are all made of carbohydrates, proteins and fat. To be able to utilize these, we also need three groups of digestive enzymes:

- Proteolytic enzymes--degraders of proteins
- Lipolytic enzymes---degraders of fat
- Amylolytic enzymes--degraders of carbohydrates

The digestive process is really an enzymatic transformation that begins the moment we place a piece of food in our mouth. As usual in nature, there is an order in which this happens. Carbohydrates are first degraded, then albumins (proteins) and finally fat.

Enzymes not only degrade foods, they also play a specific role in the process of absorption of substances. There are several enzymes that are essential as transporters of the nutrient substances.

Most commercial dog/cat foods are essentially 'dead' and rely totally on digestive enzymes to obtain nutrition. The problem here is that when the digestive enzymes are overworked, the body identifies the incompletely digested food molecules as foreign 'antigens' (bad guys). When this happens, the 'metabolic' enzymes are called on to mobilize macrophage leukocytes (these are the good guys that clean up the garbage) to digest the food. The problem here is that these are taken from their 'immune system' duties and we end up with a weakened immune system causing all kinds of other problems.

I hope from the above you will understand the underlying reason to strongly consider a raw diet for your pet. This is truly the best way of providing enough 'food' enzymes to allow the 'digestive enzymes' to do their job most effectively.

IN THIS ISSUE

Enzymes—Part 2
Could It Be Your Fabric Softener ?
Vaccinations Part 4—Holistic Vet Conference
Nosodes
Mailbox
Keeping An Open Mind

If you must compromise, please recognize that adding 'live' food to the diet does help, but don't count on it doing the whole job. Raw food provides enough enzymes to digest that particular food only! There are no extra enzymes provided to digest cooked or processed food.

If nothing else, you should now understand the basic reason for adding a good quality (live) 'digestive' enzyme such as 'Prozyme', to your animal's diet. You should also now be able to distinguish between the 'sense' and 'nonsense' of the so called 100% complete dog food in a bag!!

From all of the foregoing you should now be getting your first clues as to 'why' we have experienced the large increase in 'auto-immune' problems over the last few decades.

Before getting into the subject of 'metabolic' enzymes, I want to remind you that it is important to remember that 'medicine' does not heal. In the strict sense of the word, doctors and veterinarians do not 'cure' any disease. All of them can contribute in different ways to support the body, but the healing and the maintenance of health is a task done by the body's own defense system.

The defense mechanisms of the body are fortified by the enzymes. When someone gets sick of any disease we can be sure that something is wrong with his/her enzymes. If the enzymes had been able to eliminate the cause of the disease, the body would not have become sick.

Faulty enzymes in the body can be caused by genetic defects and/or by environmental conditions. For example, in humans there have been more than 150 diseases that are due directly to 'enzymatic defects' genetically preconditioned. This means that the patient's organism does not form a specific enzyme or it manufactures a similar enzyme which has only 'weak' activity that replaces the right one.

What we logically must do, in almost any disease, is to replace the type and quantity of the required enzymes as soon as possible. The body will automatically do the rest. Of course, enzymes can also be taken as a preventive measure against many diseases.

Enzymes are 'natural agents. This means that they do not alter the physiology of the body, instead, they just stimulate the body to act according to its own inner wisdom. This is fascinating in that **enzymes will work only if they are needed to do so!!** From a safety point of view, you should note that no toxicity level has ever been found.

More scientists are taking an interest in 'systemic enzyme therapy' and are starting to realize that 'orthodox' medicine can only offer "suppression" remedies. Supporting the body's natural immune system is finally being recognized as the wave of the future.

In the next issue we will get into how enzymes work with the immune system to fight disease.

COULD IT BE YOUR FABRIC SOFTENER ??

Sometimes it's hard to believe that health problems can arise from the simplest products used in every day living. There is a movement going on right now to participate in a class action lawsuit against manufacturers of fabric softeners. Why?

Turns out that the chemicals used can cause serious trouble with your central nervous system! Exposure can be through inhalation from the exhaust of dryers or skin contact from the treated fabrics. Symptoms include (but are not limited to): disorientation, dizziness, headaches, memory loss, pain in neck and spine, etc.

A brief glance at the ingredients used along with some basic research from their 'Material Safety Data Sheets' is enough to make me stop using any of it.

- Alpha-Terpineol—"highly irritating to mucous membranes"..."aspiration into lungs can produce pneumonitis or even fatal edema"..."can also cause loss of muscular coordination"----"Prevent repeated or prolonged skin contact".
- Benzyl Acetate—"Cardinogenic (linked to pancreatic cancer). "from vapors: irritating to eyes and respiratory passages, exciting cough"...."can be absorbed through the skin causing systemic effects"..."do not flush to sewer".
- Benzyl Alcohol—"irritating to the upper respiratory tract"..."headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, drop in blood pressure, depression, and death in sever cases due to respiratory failure".
- Camphor—On EPA's Hazardous Waste List. "readily absorbed through the body tissues"..."irritation of eyes, skin, nose and throat"..."dizziness, confusion, nausea, twitching muscles and convulsions"..."avoid inhalation of vapors".
- Chloroform—(You've got to be kidding!!)
- Ethyl Acetate—Narcotic. "may cause headache and narcosis"..."may cause anemia with leukocytosis and damage to liver and kidneys"..."wash thoroughly after handling".
- Limonene—Carcinogenic. "prevent its contact with skin or eyes because it is an irritant and sensitizer"..."always wash thoroughly after using this material and before eating or drinking"..."do not inhale limonene vapor".
- Linalool—Narcotic. "respiratory disturbances"..."**in animal tests: ataxic gait, reduced spontaneous motor activity and depression...depressed heart activity...development of respiratory disturbances leading to death".**
- Pentane—"danger—Harmful if inhaled...Avoid breathing vapor"..."inhalation of vapors may cause headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, drowsiness, irritation of respiratory tract and loss of consciousness. Prolonged exposure can cause dermatitis".

Ain't life grand when the 'big buck' boys can foist this stuff on an unsuspecting public without a guilty conscience!! Thanks for protecting us "big brother".

VACCINATIONS—PART 4
HOLISTIC VET CONFERENCE

We were privileged to have two distinguished speakers on this subject: Dr. Jean Dodds and Dr. Ronald D. Schultz. To show that the debate on 'Modified Live Vaccines' and 'Killed Vaccines' is still a long way from being settled, both speakers gave us a better insight into the risks/benefits of present vaccine usage.

Dr. Jean Dodds

Dr. Dodds started the day off humming with her lecture on vaccinations and adverse reactions with the use of Modified Live vaccines.

In giving a little background she reported the differences in vaccine related reactions. There can be:

- the acute hypersensitivity and anaphylactic reaction that occurs immediately ;
- a reaction occurring between 24 - 48 hours after;
- a delayed immunoligical reaction at approx. 10 - 28 days;
- or even later as seen in canine distemper antibodies in joint disease in dogs and feline injection site fibrosarcomas.

(Ed note: many veterinarians only seem to recognize a reaction within a 24 hour period. After that they think it is impossible!)

Dr. Dodds listed a great number of symptoms that are related to adverse vaccine reactions. These include fever, stiffness and joints; neurological disorders and encephalitis; susceptibility to infections; high liver enzyme function with possible associated liver and / or kidney failure associated with bone marrow suppression and more.

Further, in her clinical experience she has seen modified live vaccine reactions associated with the development of transient seizures in puppies and adult dogs of breeds (and cross breeds) susceptible to immune mediated diseases. She also has seen a high increase of reaction in cats. In one study on a family of Goldens she reported that when pups were vaccinated with MLV almost entire litters tested positive for thyroid disorders before two years of age. Subsequently when pups were given killed and separated vaccines thyroid incidence dropped dramatically and occurred much later in life. Dr. Dodds is also researching the link between vaccine reactions and amelyoidosis.

She warned us against the use of combination vaccines and said we should avoid the 'common practice' of multiple, simultaneous vaccination. Her research indicates that this practice is not only minimally efficacious but produces si fects which are unacceptable.

For all of you breeders out there, please make a special note. Dr. Dodds states that it is best to avoid vaccination 30 days prior to the onset of estrus, during the estrus cycle, during pregnancy and during lactation!! (Ed. Note remember that if you are still using a Modified Live vaccine—it can shed. So the above advice applies to your entire household, not just your bitch!!)

She also reminded us to avoid vaccination entirely in geriatric animals, sick or debilitated patients, and immuno-compromised animals.

She emphasized that there is **no data to substantiate the need for annual boosters.**

Her studies indicate that certain breeds of dogs are known to experience autoimmune disease triggered by vaccination! In particular she noted the Akita, Weimaraner, Standard Poodle, and Harlequin Great Dane, as being susceptible to this problem.

It was interesting to note the she recommends that the dosage for killed vaccine, can and should be adjusted for body mass. (Ed note: see Dr. Schultz for a difference in opinion.)

In her opinion, **totally unnecessary vaccinations** include those for Lyme disease, corona virus, canine hepatitis, leptospirosis, bordatella, parainfluenza, FeLV, FIP, ringworm, and rota virus Infection.

IN MEMORIUM

George MacLeod, M.R.C.V.S. died in his sleep on 5th September, 1995. Homeopathy and animals owe much of to-days practice to this great "healer". He will be missed by the entire global community of natural medicine. Let us hope that the future he sought comes to pass.

I was really happy when she suggested to the conference attendees, two alternatives to conventional vaccination.

1. Monitoring Serum Antibody Titers:
   It is possible to determine the virus-specific antibody titers for any viral disease of dogs and cats. Titer testing measures humoral immunity and many labs now offer this service. It is very important to ask for vaccine related immunity and to start at low dilutions when ordering the tests. Otherwise the labs will actually test for the active virus and the results would be distorted. (Ed. Note: generally I would test for only the serious viral diseases) If protective titers are found, the animal should not need revaccination until some future date.

2. Homeopathic Nosodes:
   (Ed note: as many of you have been asking "what are nosodes?" see end of this section for more on this subject.)
   Dr. Dodds noted that Nosodes have been used successfully in Europe since the 19th century, and more recently have been introduced to North America. They are homeopathic remedies that offer a reasonable alternative to conventional vaccines—other than those that are required by law (e.g. rabies).

She pointed out that recent publications have documented the safety and efficacy of a homeopathic approach to protection against infectious disease of animals.

The work of: Dr. Christopher Day of England (studies include use of nosodes in dogs and cattle for protection against kennel cough and bovine mastitis); Dr. John Saxton of England (studies include the use of the canine distemper nosode for disease control); and the work of Dr. Singh of India (showing potent antiviral effect of homeopathic drugs when tested in vitro against two animal viruses and a variable degree of viral inhibition in vivo) were drawn to the attention of the conference.

The extent of the vaccinosis problem is largely unknown due to the failure of many vets and clients to report the incident. She urged all of us (that means you too, gang) to report vaccination reactions not only to the vaccine manufacturers but also the USDA

She did mention that the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines on the 'Use of Alternative Therapies' was last issued in 1988. She is hopeful that as more veterinary teaching institutes include courses in alternative therapies in their curriculum, increased awareness and an open mind for the practice of medicine will be forthcoming.

Dr. Ronald D. Schultz, Ph.D., D.V.M.

For those of you not familiar with Dr. Schultz I should mention that he is recognized as a pioneer in clinical immunology and vaccinology. As Professor and Chair of Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison his work is well known in both the allopathic and holistic veterinarian communities.

Wow! If you're looking for someone with 'authority' to refer to the nonsense of annual boosters, get your 'doubting Thomas' to call on Dr. Schultz. Not only does he confirm that their is no science for this practice, he also warned of the possibility for law suits, if a Vet continues to recommend them. He pointed out that immunity to viruses persists for years or for the life of the animal.

He eloquently covered the many factors that can effect the immune response to a vaccine. The blocking effect of colostral antibody from the mother, the nature of the vaccine, the route of vaccination, the age of the animal, its general nutritional condition, concurrent infections, drug treatments—all may have an influence on the success of an immunization program.

Maternal antibody interference is the most common cause of vaccine failure. The fetus develops a functional immune system at 45 to 50 days into gestation. The level of maternal immunity at the time of birth will vary considerably, even among litter mates, but in general will stay high for 10 days to 2 weeks. A major cause for reduced immune response during the first week, is 'hypothermia'. It is important that a temperature of 99°F be maintained during this critical time frame!

Between 2 week and 4 weeks, while still nursing, the immune system of the neonate grows and begins to take on its own duties. At the time of weaning, the immune system suffers from a decrease in nutrients and can be significantly lowered from a lack of Vitamin E and selenium. This is particularly true with 'canned' foods so it is better to start with 'dry' food. At " to 10 weeks, the neonate is closer to having an adult immune system. (Ed. Note: raw fresh food is of course best for weaning)

Because maternal antibodies can persist far longer then previously thought possible, Dr. Shultz strongly recommends that the last vaccination take place at 22 weeks for a puppy and 16 weeks for a kitten. There is new information that indicates that as many as 20% of dogs at 18 weeks have enough maternal antibodies to prevent successful parvo immunization. (Note: previously it was recommended that the last immunization in the series occur at 12 to 16 weeks of age).

Make sure your vet is aware of these new findings!!

Here's a real kicker. A major problem, especially for parvo, is that the virus is able to infect an animal with levels of maternal antibody even though the antibodies prevent active immunization!! There is generally a 2 to 5 week "window of vulnerability" and in heavy parvo environments, as much as a 10 week "window", when an animal can be infected with the virus but cannot be successfully immunized!!

On the question of modified live versus 'killed' vaccines, Dr. Schultz is of the opinion that both have a place in the immunization schedule. Currently, there are no absolute answers.

He felt that because MLV vaccines replicate in the host, they more closely resemble virulent viral infections and generally produce a stronger and more durable protective immune response than killed vaccines. This "better" immune response has a cost: a decrease in vaccine safety. **Certain modified live vaccines can induce immunosuppression, may shed into the environment, and may revert to virulence or cause vaccine-induced disease.**

Killed vaccines on the other hand, are safer **but** require a large antigenic dose, multiple immunizations and often the use of adjuvants that can cause an increase in systemic vaccine reactions. Also, killed vaccines generally produce weaker immune responses with a shorter duration than the modified live vaccines. Sometimes the immune responses they produce lead to immunopathological disease at time of infection rather than providing protection. With respect to dosages, he pointed out that at the cellular level, the same number of receptor cell sites exist regardless of the size of the body, thus there is no justification for adjusting dosage quantities for different breeds of animals.
(see Jean Dodds segment for a different opinion).

He does favor MLV for Parvo in high risk areas. He feels that 'killed' vaccine is too slow in providing immunization due to the need for multiple shots. He pointed out that the Parvo vaccine is expensive to produce, so the companies use as little as possible in each dose.

As modified live vaccines replicate in the body a "mini" dose is still effective. With killed vaccine, how much is enough? His research into the effectiveness of vaccines, has led to the manufacturers revising several of their formulas. He cautioned the audience not to dilute or split the dosage when administering any 'killed' vaccine.

With respect to nutritional deficiencies, someone in the audience asked about "Blue-Green Algae". Dr. Schultz commented that in his experience, their can be a danger of nutrient toxicosis. He knows of ponds in his area, with blue-green algae, where dogs that have jumped into a pond have suffered paralyses and in some cases have died.

In general, he felt that modified live vaccines when given to animals in good general health (see Issue #1 "My Dog is Healthy Except For...), have no clinical indication of immunosuppression.

(Ed note: Dr. Dodds points out that the MLV trials by Dr. Schultz have only been tested on purposely bred Beagles and not breeds that are genetic and familial susceptible to suppression. She advocates "killed" vaccines.)

News Flash!--Dr. Schultz will be undertaking a study for a "challenged" Nosode trial to begin in early 1996!!

NOSODES

So what is a Nosode?

Simply stated: a nosode is a homeopathic remedy prepared from a pathological specimen. (See Issue #6 "Homeopathy—Some Basics".) The only difference between a nosode and any other remedy, is the starting material. It could be blood, pus, any other body secretion or excretion, or even a diseased fragment of tissue, such as a growth. Rabies nosode, for example, starts with the saliva of a rabid dog and is then "potentized".

A nosode could be described as an "oral vaccine" in the sense that its purpose is to "immunize" the body against a specific disease. The major difference between a nosode and an "orthodox" vaccine is of course the extremely small (if any) quantity of physical substance in a nosode. Remember, it is the "energy" pattern not the "substance" that does the job in a homeopathic remedy.

Do they work?

There is a considerable body of evidence (gathered over the last 200 years) that strongly suggests they actually can provide immunity!!

As usual when discussing the origins of homeopathy we must refer to 'human' experience which only in relatively recent time has been applied to animals.

The 'Father' of homeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, was the first to use prophylactic remedies. He found that a girl whom he had treated with "Belladonna" (the homeopathic form of course) for an unrelated problem, did not develop Scarlet Fever when the rest of her family became sick. He found the "provings" of Belladonna fit the disease picture of that particular epidemic of Scarlet Fever. (Remember the principle of 'like cures like'). He went on to show that by administering Belladonna he could prevent and cure that disease.

Later, homeopaths also found that "Ailanthus" could also prevent Scarlet Fever. Hahnemann later advocated the use of "Camphor" to prevent or treat Cholera. He had never seen the disease, only heard descriptions of it from the east. Successful treatment and prevention of Cholera during this epidemic greatly popularized homeopathy throughout Europe at the time.

Other homeopaths found that "Lathyrus" is able to prevent polio. "Mercurius Cyanatus" was effective in preventing diphtheria. "Baptisia" was useful for preventing typhoid fever. The list went on for measles, mumps, chicken pox, hepatitis, etc..

But it is not only in ancient history that we find compelling evidence that nosodes can and do provide effective immunization. Take Polio as an example:

- 1850—Taylor Smith in Johannesburg, south Africa immunized 82 people with "Lathyrus". 12 of the 82 were in direct contact with disease in an epidemic area. There were no cases reported in any of the 82—a 100% success.
- More recent times—Grimmer in Chicago 'vaccinated' 5,000 young children with "Lathyrus". None of them developed polio.
- Heisfelder, in a study between 1956-58, immunized over 6,000 children with this nosode. There were no side effects and no cases of polio.
- In 1975 during an polio epidemic in Buenos Aires, "Lathyrus" was given to 40,000 people. Not one of these developed polio.

In veterinary medicine, probably the best know study was done by Dr. Christopher Day of England involving 'kennel cough' in a boarding kennel. At the time he was called in, there were 40 dogs in the kennel with 35 that had kennel cough. About half had been vaccinated for this malady. He gave a nosode to all the animals that were there and all the dogs that came in through the rest of the summer (another 214 dogs). He successfully reduced the incidence of kennel cough from over 90% to less than 2%. (Sorry Charlie, nothing is 100% foolproof.)

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Nosodes have been developed and used successfully for almost all animal disease and more recently for 'heartworm'. The late Dr. George MacLeod, in his book "Dogs: Homeopathic Remedies" had this to say about nosodes: "...gives a more solid immunity inasmuch as it incorporates the entire defense system, which is mobilized as soon as the vaccine is taken into the mouth and builds up protection with each further dose. This build-up leads from tonsillar tissue through the lymphatics incorporating the entire reticuloendothelias system. This procedure is equivalent to what is known as 'street infection' viz., ingestion of virus etc. during daily contact with other animals, when immunity would be built up in the same way."

"...There are no side effects when using homeopathic oral vaccines—a reaction may sometimes be observed...but such reaction is transient and soon passes".

"...Another advantage in protection by homeopathic means is that vaccination can be started very early in the pup's life, e.g., within the first week if necessary. **This does not interfere with the presence of any maternal antibodies."** (Ed note: the bold letters and underline are mine).

Nosodes appear to stimulate the entire natural immune system to react against a specific disease. One of the many reasons that they have not been accepted in the 'orthodox' medical community, is that they do not produce specific, measurable antibodies! Thus 'titter testing' is of little value in measuring effective immunity from nosode usage. Again, because the 'mechanism' of action is poorly understood, the 'orthodox' reaction is to reject all evidence as merely 'anecdotal'. Perhaps the 'challenge' study by Dr. Schultz will provide more acceptable evidence to this mentality.

In the U.S.A. the primary source for nosodes is the Hahnemann Pharmacy in Berkley California. Interestingly, nosodes can be obtained in 'singular' form or in a 'combination' form. Both forms are presently being used by holistic vets with good results.

I should mention however, that there is no unanimous agreement between vets, with respect to the schedule of application. There are various protocols of administration being used, so don't be surprised if you run across different recommendations from different people.

Nosodes share the same problem as other homeopathic remedies, i.e. they don't fit into current scientific understanding. Back in the 1550s an Italian anatomist said the heart was a pump. He was burned at the stake. Seventy five years later, William Harvey said the same thing. He was knighted. What happened in between those two events was that the mechanical pumps came into widespread use for irrigation and mining. Homeopathy doesn't make sense to most people because it lacks a real world metaphor. Until it has one, all the positive studies in the world won't be able to crack open the closed mind. I am thankful that there is a growing number of people that "choose to think for themselves".

Vaccination Summary

To the very serious student of the vaccination question, the most outstanding feature of the material we have presented will probably be the amount of information we ha left out!! We have made no attempt at relating some of the horror stories concerning children and baby vaccinations. We have not mentioned the newest recall of unsafe canine vaccines. To cover the subject in total would require a book or perhaps more accurately several volumes of books.

Many questions are still to be resolved. There comes a time in everyone's life however, when you must choose a direction to go in, that fits with what you are trying to accomplish. For me it was a devotion to a totally natural way of rearing my animals. This may or may not be what is suitable for you.

Some breeders have chosen to use both nosodes and conventional vaccines. At the other end of the scale, there are those that have chosen to not use any form of vaccination. Regardless of your choice please remember that **nothing is 100%**, guaranteed, effective!!

If you choose to 'go natural' and to help you with your puppy buyers, you may want to consider obtaining a form from your holistic vet like the following:

XYZ Veterinary Hospital Inc.
Date: Patient: Owner:

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to verify my recommendation that this animal should not be given vaccinations due to the risk of creating or exacerbating illnesses in this animal. This animal is either a breed type or an individual who has a tendency to develop illness as the result of the immune system stress created by vaccination.

Recent studies have shown the relationship of routine vaccinations to many immune related diseases. Many immune system diseases such as allergic dermatitis, food allergies, autoimmune thyroiditis (hypothyroidism), decreased resistance to infections, blood dyscrasias, and general immune system suppression have been related to vaccination.

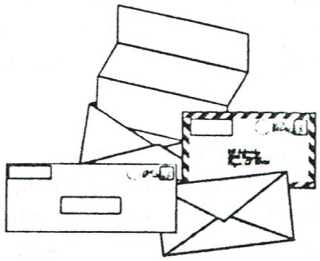
It is my opinion that the above mentioned animal has a risk of illness if give vaccinations.

Sincerely

Dr. Wellthought

In this series of articles we have tried to provide you with something to think about. If we have stimulated your thirst for knowledge, I will be well satisfied. If you choose to pass along your knowledge, I will be ecstatic.

MAILBOX



The following letter and my reply originates from the current issue of The Belgian Sheepdog Magazine, in the letters to the editor section. I want to thank the Editor, Billye Gaye Viner for giving me the opportunity to respond to well meant, honest criticism.

I take exception to Marina Zacharias' suggestion that holistic and herbal medicine be used as a means of controlling aggressive or shy dogs in the show ring.

The show ring is supposed to be a show case to exhibit our dogs' structure, temperament and stability.

We are supposed to be breeding for good Belgian temperament.

Any substance given to a dog to change his inherent temperament is a drug—herbal or chemical.

I quote: "For dogs that are experiencing ring shyness—fear of people—Tridex Standard should be tried."

"For dogs that become over-excited and seem uncontrollable in the ring—Tridex B9 is the remedy. It is also especially useful in many kinds of aggression problems. When dealing with the animal who is likely to snap at you, who seems to have a short fuse or is experiencing deeper aggression problems, the homeopathic remedy Aggression should be used."

"...if the dog dislikes being touched or handled, Tridex PU200 should be used in conjunction."

What "Magic Potion" do you use to change the basic genetic structure that produces these dogs?

It must be a great surprise and shock for puppy buyers to find aggression and shyness in the pup that came from that "lovely stud" (calm on Aggression) or "Sweet brood bitch" (on Tridex B9).

I would be willing to consider using holistic or homeopathic methods to help my 12 year old bitch's arthritis or to help a young dog through a bout with illness, BUT I am adamantly opposed to keeping a Belgian permanently "spaced out" to keep me from being bitten by my own dog; or to keep him from being constantly "freaked out" because of his fear.

Breed good temperament to good temperament, socialize them, and train them well and you won't need mood altering remedies.

I can't conceive of living with a dog for 10 or more years and keeping him on constant "medication" to prevent him from "snapping at me".

It's time to get back to basics, breed for good temperament. A little more work and a little more homework, but why always the easy (and dishonest) way out?

I'm sure the AKC would condemn this "Dr. Feelgood" approach.

Since the BSCA printed this article in their Newsletter, am I to assume that they endorse this way of hiding temperament?

Too many people have lost sight of the original purpose of dog shows—to exhibit your animals so the best can be bred to the best.

How frightening to think that newcomers to the Belgian breed are left thinking that this is an acceptable way to get good temperament.

Dear Billye:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the letter from(name of writer). Firstly I would like to say that I agree 100% that good genetic temperament should always be a consideration in any responsible breeding program.

How wonderful it would be if temperament problems only arose from genetic sources. Wouldn't it be great if we could count on consistent temperament in every dog, generation after generation simply by choosing the right parents. Unfortunately the truth is far more complex. Environmental factors, stress, diet, over vaccination, etc. all can play a roll in upsetting the natural hormonal balance of an animal, resulting in what we term "temperament" problems—irrespective of the original genetic structure. If the body is not functioning at its optimum, how can we expect the temperament to reflect its' inherent abilities?

The natural remedies that I mention in my articles are specifically designed to assist the body to restore its normal balance (as opposed to a "drug" for suppression of normal function). These are not "mood altering" drugs, as used in 'orthodox' medicine, but rather substances that the body needs to 'heal itself' and regain what was genetically already there. This provides us with an approach to 'medicine' that is safe, gentle and in most cases relatively **short term**. I too would have a great deal of trouble living with a spaced out dog for 10 or more years on constant 'medication' for temperament reasons.

I see nothing dishonest about trying to eliminate the harmful effects of 'man made' impositions on a dogs' system. I don't know of any "magic potions" that will change the genetic structure of an animal. I am thankful however, that research (particularly in the last few years) into many modalities of 'holistic' health care, has given us a range of effective tools to allow our animals to be the 'best that they can be'.

I truly hope the writer can open his mind to "new" avenues of thought.

In case someone you know thinks the safety of vaccines is beyond question, let them read this letter from Cassie Allen, a breeder in Ohio.

Dear Marina:

On April 9th we had our first litter of eleven Irish Setter puppies. They were perfect!

On May 22nd they went to the vet for their first shots. Ten days later, on June 1st, the puppies started getting sick. The first seemed to have colitis. Puppy #2 was having seizures that continued until they kept her tranquilized. On June 22nd, puppy #3 started seizuring. By then my vet contacted 'Rhone Murieux' (the manufacturer of the vaccine) to see if they had any problems with this vaccine. He was told that none had been reported.

On June 3, six puppies were showing signs of problems. We started everyone on "royal jelly" to try to detoxify. We still didn't know the cause. By June 6, **we had to put 4 puppies to sleep!**

The vaccine company did ask for tissue samples to be sent to some different places to see if it was the vaccine.

On June 7th everyone seemed to be holding their own. Still giving puppies royal jelly. On June 16th, we brought the rest home from the vet. **He was sure the puppies have distemper, but how?**

We still had 3 very sick puppies, and a 4th puppy seemed to have fought it off O.K. There were still 4 puppies at home that didn't get sick.

On June 28th I contacted Marina to see if there was any help for my three little fighters. We started all the puppies on Sulpher 30c, Thuja 30c, and Immuplex.

The 3 fighters also received Traumeel, Astragalus, Beta Thym, Tranquil Complex, Causticum, and Conium. Marina also put me in touch with Dr. Dodds who gave my phone number to another person who had the same problem from the same vaccine.

Finally the answer came back that **the puppies were given distemper through the vaccine!** We have checked all the puppies titers and they all tested positive for distemper.

The three puppies that were sick, were affected neurologicaly, mostly in the back end, one in the mouth. They seem to be recovering but it is a slow process and it will be a while before we know for sure. All the other puppies are fine and perfectly healthy so far.

In September/95 I was told that Rhone Murieux took the vaccine off the market.

To make a long story short, they did compensate me for the litter and vet bills. But that still is no excuse for having that kind of product out there.

The compensation does not make up for the hell they put my puppies and my family through.

Things will definitely be done different next time!!

To most of us, it's always devastating to lose a puppy. When this happens through our own efforts to "protect" them, the emotional trauma is one that I hope you never have to go through. The anger and frustration and yes even a feeling of guilt is something that can stay with you a very long time.

I want to thank Cassie for sharing this first hand experience with us. Putting it down in writing is almost like having to relive it. I know it was a difficult thing to do, but I also know that somewhere out there her letter will benefit others.

At least she got the manufacturer to recognize that there was a very real problem. At least there will be no more deaths from this particular vaccine!

But what's next??

Keeping An Open Mind

We can expect skeptics to continue their attacks on alternative therapies, often with paranoid fanaticism. Our greatest ally in confronting this assault will be science itself– not the restricted, limited view of science that characterizes the skeptics who seem to know in advance how the world should behave, but the open-ended approach that sets dogma, prejudice, and preconceived notions aside.

True skepticism involves the suspension of belief, not an automatic disbelief. In the words of a great nineteenth-century naturalist and skeptic, Thomas Huxley: "Sit down before fact like a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly to wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads or you shall learn nothing."

Because alternative medicine challenges so many time-honored assumptions, it is a doorway through which we may (if we have the courage), encounter a radically new understanding of the physical world and our place in it. The questions raised by alternative therapies have fractured the bedrock of many hallowed ideas. Old foundations are beginning to creak and groan. The lowlands of scientific certainty are being flooded by other data that call into question many ideas thought untouchable.

But floods, although unpleasant in the short run, bring life and renewal. They are where the greatest fertility is found.

In future issues we will be bringing you information on concepts involving a whole new/ancient field of "energy medicine. Fascinating stuff that could change the 21st Century approach to medicine.